

# Bath Recreation Limited

[www.bathrec.co.uk](http://www.bathrec.co.uk)

## Annual Report - September 2018

### Introduction

The Objectives of the Charity are:

*The provision, with or without charge, of property in or near Bath (including but not limited to the Bath Recreation Ground) for use as indoor and / or outdoor recreational facilities for the benefit of the public.*

The Charity has had a positive year with progress being made in several key areas. On 2 January 2018 the Charity incorporated and the new charitable company subsumed all operating activity of Bath Recreation Ground Trust; further details of the incorporation are included in this report.

Activity has been undertaken in line with the strategic plan (2017-22) including the acquisition of 2 new sites, Glasshouse Playing Fields and Broadmoor Lane Orchard. Along with the growth of the Primary Schools Coaching hub these new sites have seen a significant increase in the public benefit being delivered to a wider audience (detailed user numbers are included in this report).

The Recreation Ground has seen additional events and community activity and has had its busiest year for some time; the highlight being the finale of Bath Festivals 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year attracting over 16,000 visitors.

Work continues to improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground with key projects being the restoration of the Grade 2 listed turnstile gates and the former bowls club pavilion.

A summary of governance, general activity, future plans of the Charity and the aspiration of one of our tenants, Bath Rugby, to develop a new stadium at the Recreation Ground are also covered in this report.

### A. Governance

Three new trustee/directors have joined the Board and bring additional skills and experience in their respective fields of legal, finance and education/sport. The current trustee/directors are:

Derwent Campbell    Chair  
Dave Durdan        Vice Chair (Somerset Playing Fields Association nomination)  
Stephen Baddeley  
Liz Bloor  
Simon Emery  
Geoffrey Fairclough  
Mike Laughton  
Angela Lewis        (Fields in Trust nomination)  
Chris Watt (retires 30 September 2018)  
Martin Harman CBE (joined September 2018)  
Rob Carver (joined September 2018)  
Keziah Moreno (joined September 2018)

The Board aims to recruit further new trustee/directors next year to manage the retirement of the six original local trustees who will have served their terms.

### B. Strategic and Legal Activity

#### i. Strategic Plan

The Board published a five-year plan with strategic goals to guide the development of the Trust in 2017; the Charitable Company has adopted this plan. This is available on the Charity

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website. The Strategic Plan objectives are achieved through an annual operating plan and budget agreed by the Board and delivered by the staff team.

## ii. Staff

The staff team of four, led by the Chief Executive, remain in post and continue to deliver the operational activity of the Charity from our office on the Recreation Ground.

## iii. Incorporation

Following the final FTT decision, the trustees instigated procedures to incorporate the Charity. The new company, Bath Recreation Limited, became the sole trustee of Bath Recreation Ground Trust replacing the individual trustees. The board of trustees simultaneously became directors of the charitable company and the company subsumed all operating activity, including assets and staff. Bath Recreation Ground Trust still exists solely to hold the title to the Recreation Ground and is linked under direction of the Charity Commission to Bath Recreation Limited. The latter now provides all formal reports for both charities.

## iv. Sports Hub new building

The new facilities in the Leisure Centre are now being used by a resident charity and a range of clubs and schools. This has contributed significantly to an increase in activity on the Recreation Ground by previously under-represented groups in particular. The addition of the changing rooms has allowed the pavilion to be used for a greater range of community activities including by the Rotary Club, local resident associations and other charities for meetings and events.

## v. Legal Advisers

Clarke Willmott are engaged as property legal advisers and Veale Wasbrough Vizards continue as advisers to the company in charity legal matters.

## vi. Glasshouse Playing Fields

A long lease was agreed with Bath and North East Somerset Council for the playing fields early in 2018. Since then the charity has taken on the management of the site with support from former trustees of the Glasshouse Trust. Plans are being developed to replace the portacabin changing rooms with new facilities to enhance the site and make it more accessible to schools and community groups. Establishing clear communications and effective relationships with our neighbours at the Glasshouse ground is a priority.

## vii. Broadmoor Lane Play Area and Orchard

The freehold of this site was transferred to the charity early in 2018 from Redcliffe Homes along with a donation of £10,000 toward a new playpark. The charity now manages the site in partnership with local residents. The residents group actively promotes activity for the local community and their work with the orchard has won awards and recognition from the Royal Horticultural Society. A new playpark was completed in June 2018, jointly funded by Redcliffe Homes, local residents (including a grant from Bath and North East Somerset Council) and Bath Recreation Ltd.

## C. Operational Activity and Development Projects

Day to day management continues to be controlled by the Chief Executive Officer assisted by the three other staff members to all of whom we are grateful for their dedicated and consistent work.

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## i. Development Projects

The Grade 2 listed turnstile gates underwent a full refurbishment following significant damage caused by a passing vehicle. This has been completed and it is gratifying that the response has been extremely supportive and appreciative. The former bowls club pavilion in the North East corner of the Recreation Ground is currently undergoing a major refurbishment and is expected to be completed in the autumn. The result will create much improved facilities and enable greater use.

A tree replanting scheme was explored with the local council planning department, but an acceptable proposal was not determined. We intend to revisit this during the coming year.

Plans are being developed for the Glasshouse site with current and prospective users; once initial concepts are agreed we will engage with the local residents to ensure the community can benefit from the plans and the works associated with enabling those objectives.

## ii. Sports and Leisure Centre

The major refurbishment of the site is nearing completion and will see a significant improvement in the offering delivered by Bath and North East Somerset Council through its operator GLL. It will be a relief to many people that this important facility is again fully open and functioning.

## iii. Bath Rugby

Bath Rugby has begun a development process regarding its aspirations to replace the existing stadium with a new enhanced facility; their project is called 'Stadium for Bath'. The project is undergoing an extensive public and statutory body consultation; as yet the charity has had no formal request for consent and has no more information than the general public. The charity has formed a sub-committee to conduct general discussions with Bath Rugby and the charity has met with two representatives of BaNES to understand their preliminary thoughts regarding possible principles of any development proposal. This sub-committee has no decision-making authority; any decisions will be made by the full Board as and when appropriate.

The Board will consider the Stadium for Bath primarily in terms of the benefit a new development will bring to the charity and enable or otherwise affect our ability to deliver our charitable objectives. A key factor will be to provide the funds that can be directed to the provision of recreation facilities in or near Bath. The Board will of course be mindful of any community benefit, in particular, how the development will blend in with the rest of the Recreation Ground. The Board will not be part of the design process and will consider detailed proposals presented to it as a landowner with charitable obligations to be met from the resources available to it.

## iv. Users and Events for 2017/18

Use of the Recreation Ground continues to grow and Glasshouse is starting to see an increase in activity. Regular activities undertaken on the Rec include:

Croquet, quidditch, football, cricket, drama, rugby – adult, mini, women's, touch, training sessions and community events.

Other activities include: rounders, frisbee, fencing, mini "Olympics", family fun days, sports days, fitness sessions, running and fly fishing lessons. It is rewarding to note the growth of a wide variety of regular recreational and sporting uses on the Rec.

Key events this year have been:

- Bath Taps into Science

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- Bath Festival Finale
- Bath Half Marathon (cancelled due to snow)
- Bike Bath and other charity cycle rides
- Bath Carnival
- Bath Rotary Fireworks
- Rugby – RFU 7s National Finals, Red Bull 7s, women’s matches, Under 14 County games, Combined Services, University matches, Combination Cup and training camps.

## The Primary Schools Coaching Hub

The charity extended the Schools Coaching Hub and the appointment of our Sports Development Manager has greatly increased the reach of the programme. The academic year ended with four weeks of festivals in the summer term. Over 2000 school children have now taken part in activity on the Rec and the Board has decided to commit to a 5-year plan which will include an annual head teacher conference to explore how future growth could be delivered.

## Community Outreach / Initiatives

We have been working with various other charities to assist them with their aims and activities. These include:

- Bath Rugby Foundation – “HITZ”, “Heart of a Lion”, “Move Like a Pro”, “Standing Tall”, “Girls Social Sports” and “Project Rugby Three Ways” programmes
- Sporting Family Change
- Mentoring Plus
- Mencap
- Forever Friends
- Alzheimer’s Society
- Rotary Club
- Cleveland Pools Trust
- Dorothy House

## D. Summary of user numbers

See annex below.

## E. Future activity

The Glasshouse site will be a focus for new facilities and activity over the coming year. This will include provision of suitable facilities for schools, including 3 Ways School which provides for special education needs for school children across Bath. These facilities will also provide opportunities for a wide range of beneficiaries including sports clubs and community groups.

Plans remain in place to refurbish sports facilities at the Recreation Ground and will be delivered at the earliest appropriate time; these include the 5 a side courts and former grass tennis courts.

The charity has been supporting Cleveland Pools Trust with their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a major multi-million pound restoration project. Our part has been to assist in developing an operator model that will see the historic pools provide a unique outdoor recreation opportunity for the benefit of the public. If the bid is successful we will consider how we can support the site for the benefit of the public in future years.

**Derwent Campbell**  
**Chair**

**on behalf of the board of Directors**

**September 2018**

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Tenants	Frequency of Use in year	Numbers of participants	Age range & diversity of Participants
Bath & North East Somerset Council / GLL - Sports & Leisure Centre	Every day	500,000 p.a.	All
Bath Rugby			
- Premiership/European/Anglo Welsh	17 home matches	14,500 per match	All
- A League/Combination Cup	7 home matches	3,000 per match	All
Bath Croquet Club	Every day	100	15 – 85 mixed
Bath Rugby Foundation	Every day	< 4,000 in year	Mainly youth but some adults
<b>Events</b>			
- Bath Half Marathon (cancelled due to bad weather)	Once	16,000	18 > / mixed
- Bath Taps into Science	Once	5,000	All / mixed
- Bath Festival Finale	Once	16,000	All / mixed
- Bike Bath	Once	1,000	All / mixed
- Dorothy House Swing Band Concert	Once	100	All / mixed
- International Women's Rugby	Once	1,000	15 – 30 / women
- RFU 7s Tournament	Once	500	15 – 30 / men
- Bath Carnival	Once	5,000	All / mixed
- Minerva Owls	Once	15,000	All / mixed
- Rotary Club of Bath Fireworks	Once	8,000	All / mixed
<b>Schools &amp; Educational Establishments</b>			
- Beechen Cliff School	Occasional		13 > / mixed
- University of Bath	Occasional		18 > / mixed
- Bath Spa University	Occasional		18 > / mixed
- Bath College	Occasional		16 > / mixed
- Visiting Schools/Colleges	Occasional		13 > / mixed
- Midford Road Nursery	Regular		3–5 / mixed
- Schools Coaching Hub Participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Bathampton Primary</li> <li>o Bathford Primary</li> <li>o Bathwick St Mary's Primary</li> <li>o Combe Down Primary</li> <li>o The Grove Primary</li> <li>o Moorlands Infants &amp; Junior</li> <li>o Oldfield Park Infants &amp; Junior</li> <li>o Roundhill Primary</li> <li>o St Andrew's Primary</li> <li>o St John's Primary</li> <li>o St Martin's Garden Primary</li> <li>o St Mary's Primary</li> <li>o St Michael's Junior</li> <li>o St Saviour's Infants &amp; Junior</li> <li>o St Stephen's Primary</li> <li>o Twerton Infants</li> <li>o Weston All Saints Primary</li> <li>o Widcombe Infants &amp; Junior</li> </ul>	3 days per week, term time	1000 approx 36 classes	5-11 / mixed
<b>Amateur Clubs</b>			
Bath Quidditch Club	Sundays	<20 per session	18-25 mixed
Bath Drama Club	Year round	45	17 - 80

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## Other Users

### Football

- Grace United
- Bath Arsenal
- Bath City Youth / Girls
- BANES

### Rugby

- Bath Mini Rugby
- Combe Down RFC
- Bathwick Touch Rugby
- Bath Touch League

### Cricket

- Bath Cricket Club
- The Bell Cricket Club
- The Ram Cricket Club
- Star Cricket Club
- Rotork Cricket Club
- Bear Flats Cricket Club
- The Harington Club
- Buro Happold

### Other sports

- Flik Ultimate (Frisbee)
- Nature's Healing (Yoga)
- Orvis (Fly fishing lessons)
- Bath Abbey
- Framptons
- Bath & Avon Vineyard

### Sports Development Clubs

- Formula Football
- SFC Bath

### Charities

- Bath Rugby Foundation
- Mentoring Plus
- Mencap
- Sporting Family Friends
- Dorothy House

### Pavilion Users

#### (meetings, hot desking, functions & consultations)

- Physiolmpulse
- Bath Croquet Club
- Bath Drama Club
- Cleveland Pools Trust
- Bath Rotary – 3 committees
- Mentoring Plus
- Royal Society of Arts
- PERA Seniors
- Bike Bath
- Gerrards Buildings
- Local residents' private functions